

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

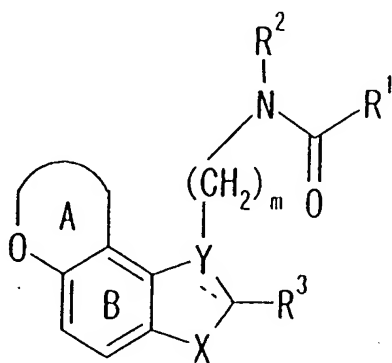
**1-6. (Cancelled)**

**7. (Previously presented)** A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno [5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, lauric diethanolamide, and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols.

**8-19. (Cancelled)**

**20. (Previously presented)** A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, isopropyl myristate, polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

**21. (Currently amended)** A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon~~ a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

$R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom, ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon or a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;~~

X represents  $CHR^4$ ,  $NR^4$  or O in which  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;~~

Y represents C or CH;

$\text{---}$  represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents ~~an optionally substituted;~~ a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

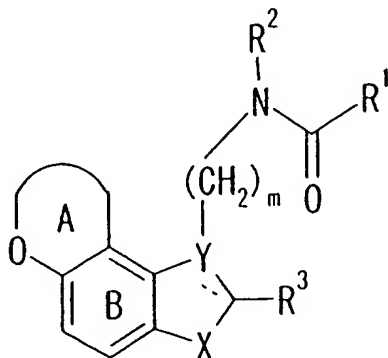
ring B represents ~~an optionally substituted~~ a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is a skin plaster or a skin patch which is applied and/or attached to the skin.

**22-32. (Cancelled)**

**33. (Currently amended)** A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon~~ a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon~~ or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl  
group ~~or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~;

X represents CHR<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>4</sup> or O in which R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

Y represents C or CH;

          
..... represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents ~~an optionally substituted~~, a 5- membered oxygen-containing  
heterocyclic ring;

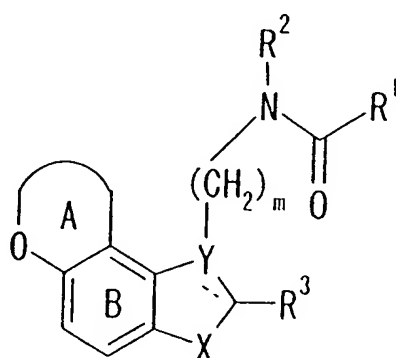
ring B represents ~~an optionally substituted~~ a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is contained in a skin contact  
member comprising silicon dioxide.

**34-38. (Cancelled)**

**39. (Currently amended)** A method of treating diseases related to melatonin, which comprises administering to a patient with a melatonin related disease a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon~~ a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~ or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

X represents CHR<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>4</sup> or O in which R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

Y represents C or CH;

        
..... represents a single bond or a double bond;

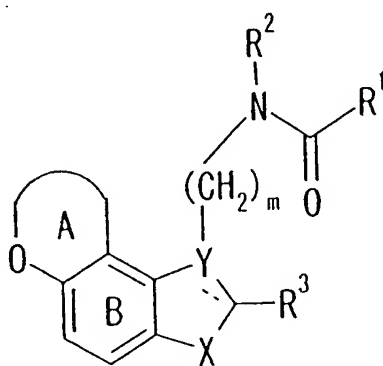
ring A represents ~~an optionally substituted~~, a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents ~~an optionally substituted~~ a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

**40. (Currently amended)** A method for percutaneous absorption of a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, which comprises administering to a patient with a melatonin related disease a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~ a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~ or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

X represents CHR<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>4</sup> or O in which R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

Y represents C or CH;

$\text{---}$  represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents ~~an optionally substituted~~, a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents ~~an optionally substituted~~ a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

**41. (Cancelled)**

**42. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 39, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is affixed between about 6 hours before bedtime to just before bedtime.

**43. (Currently amended)** The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 21, wherein X represents  $\text{CHR}^4$  in which  $\text{R}^4$  represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~.

**44-46. (Cancelled)**

**47. (New)** The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 33, wherein the compound is (S)-N-[2-(1, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno-[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

**48. (New)** The method of treating diseases related to melatonin according to claim 39, wherein the compound is (S)-N-[2-(1, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno-[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

**49. (New)** The method of percutaneous absorption of a compound according to claim 40, wherein the compound is (S)-N-[2-(1, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno-[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.